

**RESOLUTION
of the
CITY OF MINNEAPOLIS**

**By Johnson, Reich, Gordon, Hofstede, Samuels, Goodman, Glidden, Schiff,
Tuthill, Quincy, Colvin Roy, and Hodges**

**Honoring Council Member Robert Lilligren for his years of service to the City of
Minneapolis.**

Whereas, Robert Lilligren was elected in 2001 to represent the 8th Ward, and again elected in 2005 and 2009 to represent the 6th Ward, and he has served the City of Minneapolis and its people for over 12 years as a City Council Member, Council Vice President and community member; and

Whereas, Council Vice President Lilligren is a proud member of the White Earth Band of Ojibwe and the first Native American elected to serve on the Minneapolis City Council, or any elected office in our city; and

Whereas, Council Vice President Lilligren has worked tirelessly to represent the diverse communities the City of Minneapolis, expressing a strong sense of social, environmental and economic justice in all his work; and

Whereas, Council Vice President Lilligren in his collaborative style has brought together community members, the private sector, and public sector officials to find creative solutions to complex problems and to promote investments in core city neighborhoods; and

Whereas, since being elected, Council Vice President Lilligren has held over 528 community office hours; spent over 1500 hours helping constituents and small business owners; has attended over a thousand regular monthly neighborhood meetings and hundreds of community events; and worked to create new immigrant celebrations, like the Mexican Independence Day Celebration, Cinco de Mayo, and Somali Independence Day on Lake Street; and

Whereas, Council Vice President Lilligren has been and continues to be a leader in the GLBT community, among other accomplishments he worked hard for the passage of the Marriage Equality Act in 2013, authored the City of Minneapolis domestic partner registry ordinance, and initiated the lighting of the I-35W Bridge in Rainbow Colors every year during the Twin Cities Pride celebrations since 2011, as an effort to celebrate the diversity of our community, prompting his State Representative Karen Clark to state "Robert Lilligren's strong leadership helped to ensure the city of Minneapolis was on public record and used their lobby efforts in support of numerous state legislative battles, including strong opposition to the constitutional amendment banning gay marriage in 2011, the city of Minneapolis City's strong statements of support for passing the Marriage Equality Act in 2013; and

Whereas, because of Council Vice President Lilligren's leadership the unprecedented and historic Native American Memorandum of Understanding with the City of Minneapolis was created, providing an important framework for ongoing public policy that has helped to build respectful and honorable relations between the City of Minneapolis and our Native American residents; and

Whereas, Council Vice President Lilligren is a well-respected state-wide leader in transportation, by serving in leadership of the region's Transportation Advisory Board, the Bike/Walk Twin Cities Advisory Committee of Transit for Livable Communities, the Northern Lights Express Alliance, I-35W Solutions Alliance, and as an active founding member of the Grant Evaluation Ranking System for Counties Transit Improvement Board, and a vocal representative for multi-modal transit in the Twin-Cities region at other state, regional, and local organizations; causing Adam Duinick, Chair of the Metropolitan Council Transportation Committee, to state that "Robert Lilligren has been a leader on transportation policy and an advocate for urban transportation options while always maintaining a regional perspective. Robert understands complicated processes and knows how to engage communities in working through these processes, opening up transportation projects to the public; furthermore, Robert has always gone out of his way to mentor younger policy makers and advocates. His leadership, patience, acumen, smarts, and collaborative skills make Robert stand out amongst his peers," and;

Whereas, with the help of the Ward 6 office and the Community Planning & Economic Development Department, the business loan program has been able to provide over \$10 million dollars in public-private funds in Ward 6 small businesses, owned by people of color, giving many of these previously ignored communities a level economic stability and a sense of community through the creation and retention of jobs, like the Midtown Global Market, low interest loans, and alternative Shariah public loans, have become available for immigrant communities and low income entrepreneurs, and

Whereas, Council Vice President Lilligren has prioritized creating a more diverse workforce within the City of Minneapolis, and led by example by hiring people of color, mostly women, as personal staff and many interns; and

Whereas, Council Member Lilligren's volunteer work in office expresses and advances his strong values of equity, like in his role as founding Chair of the Native American Community Development Institute for six years advancing, economic independence in the Native Community; his nine years of service on the Board of Directors Women's Environmental Institute, to address health disparities related to toxic exposures and to advance urban agriculture opportunities; as a board member of OutFront Minnesota, , and on the capital campaign committees for Minneapolis Crisis Nursery, Lutheran Social Service Center for Changing Lives, and the Minneapolis American Indian Center.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved by The City Council of The City of Minneapolis:

The Mayor & City Council do hereby present this Honorary Resolution in recognition of Council Vice President Robert Lilligren for his more than twelve years of dedication to public service, civic engagement, equity, social and economic justice, and dedication to his constituents and to all the residents of the City of Minneapolis; and

Be It Further Resolved that the Mayor and City Council thank Robert Lilligren for his service, and ask the residents of Minneapolis to join in wishing him health, happiness, and prosperity as he begins the next chapter in his life.